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National Industrial Conference Board

National Ind. Conference Board, April 1917

[Boston?]

[1917?]

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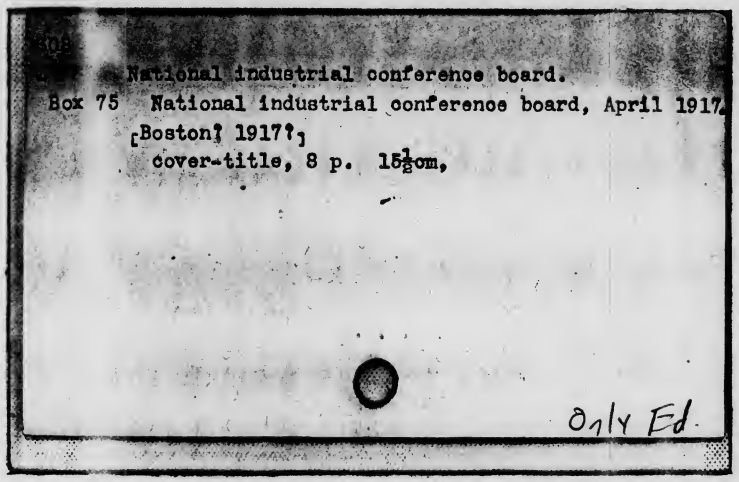
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Prof. E. R. A. Seligm

National Industrial Conference Board

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Box 75

APRIL
1917

THE National Industrial Conference Board is a co-operative body composed of representatives of national industrial associations, and organized to provide a clearing house of information, a forum for constructive discussion, and machinery for co-operative action on matters that vitally affect the industrial development of the country.

National Industrial Conference Board

THE United States has grown within a century from a rural community into the first manufacturing nation of the world. This marvelous transformation has been accompanied by vast changes in our social, economic, and political life. These changes have in turn created great industrial problems which have often been met by temporary adjustments rather than by permanent solutions.

Sometimes expediency, but more often lack of knowledge on the part of business men, society, and the government, has been responsible for the makeshift character of the industrial remedies adopted. Furthermore, misunderstanding of in-

INTENTIONAL SECOND EXPOSURE

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8 April, 1920 - C.R.W.

National Industrial Conference Board

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Sometimes expediency, but more often lack of knowledge on the part of business men, society, and the government, has been responsible for the makeshift character of the industrial remedies adopted. Furthermore, misunderstanding of in-

dustrial and business problems has engendered suspicion, and suspicion has grown into a public opinion actively hostile toward all business enterprise. The result has been a flood of legislation, some of it sound and wholesome, but much of it restrictive of good business, and contrary both to sound economics and the public interest.

Many industrial associations have been created, each performing indispensable service to its members in the defense of essential rights and in the study of special problems; but nowhere is there any machinery to co-ordinate their efforts in dealing with many problems which are common to all. There is need to inform and mobilize the collective judgment of business men on industrial questions and to give it such expression as will reflect itself in public opinion and legislative policy.

THE NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL CONFERENCE BOARD was organized in May, 1916, to meet this need. It is composed of two delegates from (now sixteen) national industrial associations cooperating in the work. These delegates and the officers of the Board represent a high type of leadership and wide experience and training in industrial affairs. In the Board's membership the great variety of American industry is well represented.

Under the Board's direction, a staff of experts has begun to investigate important industrial problems. The conclusions and recommendations of the Board on these problems, with the data upon which they are based, will be widely distributed by means of an official publication, copies of which will be placed at the disposal of representatives of the public charged

with the making of laws which affect and regulate the conduct of industry. An intelligent digest and interpretation of current happenings in the industrial field will also be issued, and the influence of the member-associations, the public press, and expert representatives will be relied upon to make the conclusions of the Board effective.

The Board is an investigative, deliberative, and advisory body. It enters upon industrial research with fixed principles but without preconceived opinions, except that it believes in preservation of individual opportunity and freedom of action as great as is compatible with public welfare. In reaching judgment, it will be guided by sound economic principles, high conception of equitable human relationships, and the belief that only upon this basis can enduring national prosperity be built.

The Board will point out to the employer where he is wrong; it will sustain him when he is right. Likewise, it will seek to make employees and the public in general more accurately and sympathetically acquainted with the requirements of industrial production and its complex problems, and with the remarkable contribution which industry makes to individual and national prosperity.

The Board will use its influence by constructive effort, by stimulation of an enlightened public opinion, and by suggestions for sound legislation, to the end that the industries of the nation may be placed and maintained upon a stable foundation, and that the country's industrial power and prestige may be enhanced at home and abroad.

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CHARLES G. WASHBURN . . *Treasurer*
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